REGIONAL REPORTS



ATLANTIC OCEAN: SIGNAL HILL, NEWFOUNDLAND, (photo: Fr. Charles Pottie, sj)

ATLANTIC REGION UPDATE

As one community in our region said, “Despite the difficulty and stresses of this pandemic, we have come to appreciate how faith and love can still thrive in our world …and we are open to be a part of that in our own way.”

Out of our 9 Atlantic Christian Life communities, 8 were able to continue meeting regularly on Zoom, Skype or Facebook Messenger. Often groups have shortened their meetings to make the time online more pleasant. Some members have had to use their phones to connect to meetings and some have found this challenging. Most communities continued, with some modifications, their regular meeting formats, prayer materials and missions.

Some members were very active in spite of being in lockdown from Covid -19 and kept members of their communities connected through emails or phone calls. Others reached outside their CLCs, for example, one member and her husband delivered packages to senior parishioners in their church. Many members participated in online retreats, prayer opportunities, livestreamed weekly masses, and the CLC Easter mass. These virtual gatherings provided inspiration and a chance to draw closer to God. All of us joined others around the

world praying that the pandemic would end and dreamed of a world free from disease, violence and prejudice.

As summer began and the restrictions in the Atlantic Provinces bubble lessened, a number of communities were able to meet face-to–face. The JOY community celebrated Karen Reeves' 'YES' to taking on the role of Regional Representative. Thank you Karen.

This fall, Atlantic communities will gather together online in October. One of our discussion topics is how we have experienced the pandemic in terms of living the National Priorities. We will also celebrate mass together. Looking further ahead to the spring of 2021, if the pandemic permits, a number of CLCers and many lay people in New Brunswick will begin the 2nd module of the First Spiritual Exercises. In the meantime, these group members will start meeting virtually this fall to stay connected until they are able to continue their FSE journey. There is hope that an interest in CLC might be sparked in some participants. We are reminded of The Mystery of the Romero Prayer –

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen

Written and submitted by Karen Reeves and Jane Abernethy-Parker, current and recent Atlantlic Region Representatives.

MORE NEWS, submitted by Pat Lawson



A BLESSING CEREMONY

On Aug 15, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the J.O.Y. community met in O'Dell Park, Fredericton, for a summer picnic and games. This was a special gathering as we had a sending ceremony for Karen Reeves to fulfill her

discerned decision to accept the position of Atlantic Regional Representative on National Council, leaving her current position on the Regional Council as Secretary. **In the photo above: Pat Lawson, Coordinator Lorraine Bird, Group Guide Graydon Nicholas, Beth Nicholas, Wanda Lyons and Karen Reeves in the seat of blessings!**



We also thank Jane Abernethy-Parker, out-going Atlantic Regional Representative, for her outstanding work and dedication to CLC Atlantic and National. We especially recognize her for her arduous work on the CLC National Evaluation Working Group! Many blessings, Jane, as you forge ahead with your next endeavours!

CENTRAL REGION UPDATE



FALL ONTARIO

Formation reports one new four member group formed from two 'Come and See' groups, that has made their initial commitment. The name hasn't been confirmed yet. Two groups have made temporary commitments and three people have finished the Spiritual Exercises. All the peer support groups for guides, spiritual directors and Contact coffee hours are continuing. A retreat is still hoped for Jan/Feb /21. Formation asked CREXCO to promote Facebook use, as it's popular with younger members. CREXCO discussed and decided to do so for one year and then re-evaluate its effect. The Formation team has a new member.

Mary Balfe wasn't present for a report on CAM. Fr. J.P. Horrigan stated the money we have is desperately needed in Haiti and Dominican Republic, but there is still no contact person and a report hasn't been received, so the money can't be sent. There have been elections in the

Dominican Republic and a new government formed. There is hope that this will ease the situations of the Haitians there. There is still political turmoil in Haiti.

The Integral Ecology Working Group has been formed as mandated by the last council meeting and has met twice. I am the CREXCO member for the group and there are three other members. Due to the urgency and size of the task given the group, we still request others to consider joining us. Reviewing the feedback given at the council, we sought the MAGIS. Education, Advocacy and Collaboration were what seemed to be the MAGIS. We have tried to make contact with the Sisters of St. Joseph who came out in June with an 'Ethical Framework for a Post-COVID Recovery' which covered the aspects of *Laudato Si* and Integral Ecology. An attempt was made in June and again early September, but as yet no response. Efforts have also been made to contact Fr. Trevor who is now with the Jesuit Forum for Faith and Justice. Such efforts will continue. An aspect that came out at the Council was our own CLC integral ecological resources and actions to date. We would like to know what groups have been doing since the Council and suggest that the Ecological and Plastics Examen be done regularly by all groups to help us keep this focus alive in our groups. Prayer, fasting and living simply is also suggested, to be in solidarity with those most affected by Climate change. This request has been sent out and the responses are requested by Sept 25th. The Working Group is committed to reporting monthly to CREXCO and the region. We request ideas and issues that are 'signs of our times' feedback from our membership and will formulate region-wide petitions to the government or wherever is deemed most urgent.

Planning for a fall overnight zoom meeting has started with Nov 6th/7th the most likely date. We're making plans to pre-book spring and fall meetings so venues can be confirmed in advance.

Written and submitted by Susan Rogers, Central Region representative.

Additional news: The Haiti computer initiative within the Central Region Haiti Common Apostolic Mission, **submitted by Kuruvila Zachariah**

Our Working Group goal, under the leadership of Mary Balfe, is to provide young people in Haiti CVX/CLC with ten Raspberry Pi (RPi) computers and tutorials to get them started. Before the pandemic struck, one RPi was donated to Denis and Eleanore Tchuente, and another to Sister Nadia Gbaguidi. They are not the primary intended targets but we hoped they could first become familiar with the RPi and then share their experience with young CVX members. Father Jean Bertin, S.J., identified six interested youngsters who will receive RPi kits. They are Jeantal, Laine, Emmanual Bejean, Brisson Tiverney, Diejuste Exalus, Kennedrine Beaubrun and Kerline Apricot. We stopped activities six months ago because of the Covid-19 risk involved in taking them to the post office and the uncertainties related to shipping them. Also, the initiative is delayed because, in contrast to packaging ten laptops for shipment, the RPi can consist of up to ten separate components, the assembly of which I am responsible for. I must connect them to each other and then test them. A key component is the micro SD card (about the size of a

fingernail) which carries the software. If care is not used it can be corrupted, requiring replacement.

PRAIRIE REGION UPDATE



CANADIAN PRAIRIE GRASSLAND: cbc.ca

CLC Prairie Region has developed a 'Leadership Transition Team'. They have met several times as a Region to deepen their understanding as to how to invite, support and include CLC members to take on Leadership roles both at the Regional and National Levels. They also held a beautiful 'Waterside Reflection' in August inviting others from across Canada. Lastly, Prairie Region has a new Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. Con Mulvihill, SJ. At present, Ruth Chipman is wearing many hats for CLC, including Interim Rep, COE, National Implementation and National Formation Working Groups as well as Facilitator of the Prairie Region Leadership Transition Team.
The Region invited the national community to a meaningful and beautiful Mass in honour of Father John English, SJ. This event is a yearly tradition. The Mass was on ZOOM, with Father Charles presiding.

Written and submitted by Michelle Mahoney, CLC National President

CLC ROCKIES REGION UPDATE



WESTERN SKY FROM A PLANE: (photo: Janet Ho, on her way home from the National Assembly.)

The Rockies/BC region currently is in a transition period. We will be welcoming our new Regional Ecclesiastical Assistant, Fr. Con Mulvihill, SJ and new regional leaders.

Besides my term as the Regional Representative, which will end in the Fall this year, we will need to fill the vacancy of the Regional Treasurer as well. As the number of our members continues to grow, we are going to introduce two new leadership positions (Coordinator of Communities and Formation Coordinator) to meet the increasing needs and share the responsibilities in our region. Members in our region will soon be invited to discern and respond to God's call to this collaborative leadership.

Another transition many of our local communities are experiencing is the loss of a group guide when Fr. Charles is no longer available to be their group guide. We're trying to find creative ways to address the need for group guides and continue to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit who is our ultimate guide.

During the pandemic, most members in the Rockies/BC region continue to meet using online video conferencing tools and some meet in person with proper physical distancing. Many of us keep experiencing God's loving presence and receiving new graces despite the challenging circumstances. There was both happy and sad news. Members from St. Mark's CLC recently got married. Some of us have been grieving for the loss of our loved ones and struggling with difficulties in life. As CLCers, we're called to find God in all things. In our personal prayer and at the CLC meetings, we recognize that the Lord has been walking with us through the ups and downs of our lives. We can firmly say that God is good and faithful. We have hope because God is with us always. Lastly, just want to mention the following resources which might be of interest.



1. **Life after the Pandemic** - A book-companion for responding to the Covid-19 pandemic through the vision and words of Pope Francis. It collects eight significant spoken and written texts of Pope Francis from March to April 2020.

   Print copy is available for purchase from online bookstores. It can also be downloaded from this link:
https://www.stmaryshexham.org.uk/media/1779/life-after-the-pandemic-jun20.pdf

2. A new interesting educational video game which was launched by Loyola Press in August 2020. According to the website, "the game invites players to explore the four pillars of the Catholic Faith in an engaging and beautiful virtual world and venture out in their role as "the Pilgrim"—a faith-filled seeker on a quest to discover and experience core teachings of the faith while practicing how to "walk in the light" and live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ." This game could be one of the helpful distance learning tools for children, especially during the pandemic. For more info and play demo, go to this link:

https://www.wanderlightgame.com/

Written and submitted by Janet Ho, CLC Rockies Region